



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

*Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney*

*World Trade Center
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street
Norfolk, Va. 23510*

757/441-6331

NEWS RELEASE

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**For further information contact
Deanna Warren 757-441-6331**

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Dwight Luther Cook, age 53, of Norfolk, Virginia, an armed career criminal under federal firearms laws, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Norfolk to 190 months in prison on charges of possessing two pistols after having been previously convicted of three or more burglaries. Cook was arrested on a federal complaint in July 2004, was indicted December 13, 2004, and pled guilty to the indictment on April 18, 2005, the day of his scheduled trial.

Cook was arrested by Norfolk Police officers on state charges following his attempt to steal two pistols from Bob's Gun Shop located in Norfolk, Virginia, on March 31, 2004. Cook was observed by a customer and subdued and handcuffed by a customer and an employee of the gun shop after a brief scuffle. Two pistols were recovered from Cook, a stolen 9mm Beretta and a stolen Walther P22, both semiautomatic firearms. Cook admitted to stealing to obtain money to feed his heroin habit. The case was referred for federal prosecution under Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)/EXILE.

Project PSN/EXILE is a multi-agency joint federal and state task force targeting armed criminals for prosecution in federal court for possession or use of firearms in violation of federal laws. It is a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide effort by the Department of Justice aimed at reducing violent crimes. Since its inception in Hampton Roads in late 1997, Project EXILE/PSN has produced over 1032 convictions and removed over 1798 firearms from armed criminals.

This case was investigated by agents and task force officers of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Norfolk Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe prosecuted the case for the United States.

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